

10/506696

DI09 Rec'd PGT/PTO 03 SEP 2004

Our Reference: SPM-379-A

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Volker Krink, et al.  
Serial Number: Unknown  
Filing Date: Concurrent  
Examiner/Art Group Unit: Unknown/Unknown  
Title: ELECTRODE ELEMENT FOR PLASMA  
TORCHES AND A METHOD FOR THE  
PRODUCTION OF SAME

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The references listed in the attached form PTO-1449 are cited pursuant to Rule 37 C.F.R. 1.56 to meet the duty to disclose to the Patent Office all information known to the inventor, attorney or any other person who is substantively involved in the preparation or prosecution of the application or who is associated with the inventor, with the assignee or with anyone to whom there is an obligation to assign the application.

The information may include:

- (1) Prior art cited in search reports of a foreign patent office in a counterpart application, and
- (2) The closest information over which individuals associated with the filing or prosecution of the patent application believe any pending claim patentably defines.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c) and (e)(2) this Information Disclosure Statement includes the following Certification that no item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to the knowledge of the person

107506696

U109 Rec'd PCT/PTO 03 SEP 2004

Date September 3, 2004

2

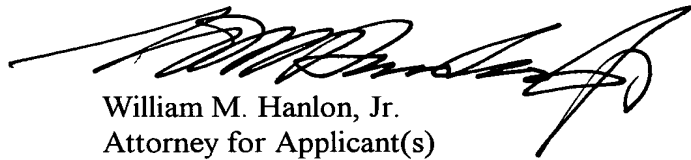
signing the Certification after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Statement.

A copy of each cited U. S. reference is not enclosed pursuant to United States Patent and Trademark Office OG Notices: 05 August 2003 which waives the requirement to submit a copy of each cited U.S. Patent and U.S. Patent Application Publication for all U.S. National Patent Applications filed after June 30, 2003.

A copy of each required cited reference is enclosed, if required.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG, BASILE, HANLON, MacFARLANE,  
WOOD & HELMHOLDT, P.C.



William M. Hanlon, Jr.  
Attorney for Applicant(s)  
Registration No. 28422  
(248) 649-3333

3001 West Big Beaver Rd., Suite 624  
Troy, Michigan 48084-3107

Dated: September 3, 2004  
WMH/dge

10/506696

03 SEP 2004

Sheet 1 of 1

|   |    |   |                  |                                  |       |                       |               |
|---|----|---|------------------|----------------------------------|-------|-----------------------|---------------|
| FORM PTO-1449<br>LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT  |    |   |                  | ATTY. DOCKET NO.<br>SPM-379-A    |       | SERIAL NO.<br>UNKNOWN |               |
|   |    |   |                  | APPLICANT<br>Volker Krink et al. |       |                       |               |
|   |    |   |                  | FILING DATE<br>Concurrent        |       | GROUP<br>Unknown      |               |
| U. S. PATENT DOCUMENT   |    |   |                  |                                  |       |                       |               |
| EXAMINER<br>INITIALS  |    | PATENT NO.  | ISSUE DATE       | PATENTEE                         | CLASS | SUBCLASS              | FILING DATE   |
|   | AA | 6,130,399   | Oct. 10, 2000    | Lu et al.                        | 219   | 121                   | July 20, 1998 |
|   | AB | 5,767,478   | June 16, 1998    | Walters                          | 219   | 121.52                | Aug. 14, 1997 |
|   | AC |   |                  |                                  |       |                       |               |
|   | AD |   |                  |                                  |       |                       |               |
|   | AE |   |                  |                                  |       |                       |               |
|   | AF |   |                  |                                  |       |                       |               |
|   | AG |   |                  |                                  |       |                       |               |
|   | AH |   |                  |                                  |       |                       |               |
|   | AI |   |                  |                                  |       |                       |               |
|   | AJ |   |                  |                                  |       |                       |               |
|   | AK |   |                  |                                  |       |                       |               |
| FOREIGN PATENT OR PUBLISHED PATENT APPLICATION  |    |   |                  |                                  |       |                       |               |
|   |    | DOCUMENT NO.  | PUBLICATION DATE | COUNTRY OR PATENT OFFICE         | CLASS | SUBCLASS              | TRANSLATION   |
|   | AL | EP0437915   | July 24, 1991    | Europe                           |       |                       |               |
|   | AM | EP0334981   | October 4, 1989  | Europe                           |       |                       |               |
|   | AN |   |                  |                                  |       |                       |               |
|   | AO |   |                  |                                  |       |                       |               |
|   | AP |   |                  |                                  |       |                       |               |
| OTHER REFERENCES (including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)   |    |   |                  |                                  |       |                       |               |
|   | AR | Copy of International Search Report dated August 25, 2003 |                  |                                  |       |                       |               |
|   | AS |   |                  |                                  |       |                       |               |
|   | AT |   |                  |                                  |       |                       |               |
| EXAMINER  |    |   |                  | DATE CONSIDERED                  |       |                       |               |
| EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not considered. Include a copy of this form with next communication to applicant. |    |   |                  |                                  |       |                       |               |